

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE

73-06

11/1/06

**ELIMINATION OF THE PIZZA WITH MEAT OR SAUSAGE STANDARDS:
EXPIRATION OF THE NEED TO INCLUDE THE PERCENT MEAT/POULTRY
COMPONENT ON THE LABELING OF PIZZA PRODUCTS**

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this notice is to remind inspection program personnel that the sunset date for declaring the percentage of meat or poultry on pizza products containing meat or poultry was October 30, 2006, and to provide a copy of the new regulations. This notice does not require inspection program personnel to perform any new activities.

II. BACKGROUND

On July 31, 2003, the Agency published a [final rule](#) in the Federal Register removing 9 CFR 319.600, the standards of identity for pizzas with meat, from the Federal meat inspection regulations. The need for products identified as meat or sausage pizzas to contain tomato sauce, cheese and a bread-based crust, or a minimum meat content, as was prescribed by the standards, no longer exists. Pizza products containing an amenable amount of meat, meat food product, poultry, or poultry product may bear the term "pizza" as a common or usual name.

The final rule also amended the meat and poultry inspection regulations (9 CFR 317.8 and 9 CFR 381.129 – see Attachment 1). This amendment required that for 3 years the labels of products identified as meat or poultry pizzas in their descriptive names or elsewhere on the labeling include the percent of the meat component or poultry component in the product in a parenthetical statement that is contiguous to the ingredients statement. The 3-year period expired on October 30, 2006.

Therefore, the declaration of the percentage of meat or poultry in pizzas containing meat or poultry is now voluntary information. Changes to labeling to remove the percentage of meat or poultry can be accomplished by manufacturers under the generic labeling approval regulations (9 CFR 317.5 and 381.133), and, therefore, the change to remove the percent declaration does not require a sketch approval from the Labeling and Consumer Protection Staff (LCPS) in Washington, DC.

DISTRIBUTION: Inspection Offices;
T/A Inspectors; TRA; TSC; Import
Offices

NOTICE EXPIRES: 11/1/07

OPI: OPPED

Consideration for Pizza Products Used for the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Child Nutrition (CN)/School Lunch Program

FNS typically requires a new CN identification number and approval for any changes that manufacturers of CN-labeled product make to a product name on labeling. However, if manufacturers of CN-labeled pizza products with meat or poultry do not make changes to labels other than the removal of the percentages of meat and poultry, FNS will not object to the deletion of the declaration of the percentage of meat/meat food product on pizza products under the generic labeling approval regulations. FNS requires that one copy of the generically approved label, along with a statement that indicates what was changed on the label, be sent to USDA, FNS, 3101 Park Center Drive, Rm. 632, Alexandria, VA 22302 ("Attention CN Label Reviewer").

NOTE: The removal of the percent meat statement from the label does not allow the company to change the product formulation. FNS must approve all formulation changes to CN labeled products.

For additional information about meat and poultry pizza labeling, contact the Technical Service Center at 800-233-3935, press 1 and choose the labeling option.



Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy, Program, and Employee Development

Attachment 1

PART 317--LABELING, MARKING DEVICES, AND CONTAINERS

- 1. The authority citation for part 317 continues to read as follows:**

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 601-695; 7 CFR 2.18, 2.53.

- 2. Section 317.8 is amended by adding a new paragraph (b)(40) to read as follows:**

Sec. 317.8 False or misleading labeling or practices generally; specific prohibitions and requirements for labels and containers.

(b) * * *

(40) Products identified as "pizza" that list a meat component as part of the product name must bear a parenthetical statement contiguous to the ingredients statement that conveys the percent of the cooked, cured, or dried meat component in the product. This paragraph shall expire on October 30, 2006.

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PART 319--DEFINITIONS AND STANDARDS OF IDENTITY OR COMPOSITION

- 3. The authority citation for part 319 continues to read as follows:**

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 450, 1901-1906; 21 U.S.C. 601-695; 7 CFR 2.18, 2.53.

Sec. 319.600 Removed and Reserved]

- 4. Section 319.600 is removed and reserved.**

PART 381--POULTRY PRODUCTS INSPECTION REGULATIONS

- 5. The authority citation for part 381 continues to read as follows:**

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 138f, 450; 21 U.S.C. 451-470; 7 CFR 2.18, 2.53.

6. Section 381.129 is amended by adding a new paragraph (f) to read as follows:

Sec. 381.129 False or misleading labeling or containers.

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(f) Products identified as "pizza" that list a poultry component as part of the product name must bear a parenthetical statement contiguous to the ingredients statement that conveys the percent of the cooked, cured, or dried poultry component in the product. This paragraph shall expire on October 30, 2006.